DOCUMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATOR DETERMINATION

RCRA Corrective Action Environmental Indicator (EI) RCRAInfo code (CA725)

Current Human Exposures Under Control

Facility Name:

Frontier - Pendleton site

Facility Address:

Townline Road, Pendleton NY

Facility EPA ID #:

NYD991292053

1.	groundwater, sur	referential significant information on known and reasonably suspected releases to soil, reface water/sediments, and air, subject to RCRA Corrective Action (e.g., from Solid Wasterits (SWMU), Regulated Units (RU), and Areas of Concern (AOC)), been considered in ation?
	X	If yes - check here and continue with #2 below.
		If no - re-evaluate existing data, or
		if data are not available skip to #6 and enter" (more information needed) status code.

BACKGROUND

Definition of Environmental Indicators (for the RCRA Corrective Action)

Environmental Indicators (EI) are measures being used by the RCRA Corrective Action program to go beyond programmatic activity measures (e.g., reports received and approved, etc.) to track changes in the quality of the environment. The two EI developed to-date indicate the quality of the environment in relation to current human exposures to contamination and the migration of contaminated groundwater. An EI for non-human (ecological) receptors is intended to be developed in the future.

Definition of "Current Human Exposures Under Control" EI

A positive "Current Human Exposures Under Control" EI determination ("YE" status code) indicates that there are no "unacceptable" human exposures to "contamination" (i.e., contaminants in concentrations in excess of appropriate risk-based levels) that can be reasonably expected under current land- and groundwater-use conditions (for all "contamination" subject to RCRA corrective action at or from the identified facility (i.e., site-wide)).

Relationship of EI to Final Remedies

While Final remedies remain the long-term objective of the RCRA Corrective Action program the EI are near-term objectives which are currently being used as Program measures for the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, GPRA). The "Current Human Exposures Under Control" EI are for reasonably expected human exposures under current land- and groundwater-use conditions ONLY, and do not consider potential future land- or groundwater-use conditions or ecological receptors. The RCRA Corrective Action program's overall mission to protect human health and the environment requires that Final remedies address these issues (i.e., potential future human exposure scenarios, future land and groundwater uses, and ecological receptors).

Duration / Applicability of EI Determinations

EI Determinations status codes should remain in RCRAInfo national database ONLY as long as they remain true (i.e., RCRAInfo status codes must be changed when the regulatory authorities become aware of contrary information).

Background

The Frontier Chemical-Pendleton site is located on Townline Road in the Town of Pendleton, Niagara County, New York. This inactive site is currently listed as site number 9-32-043 on the registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites in New York State. It is currently listed as a Class 4 site on the Registry, indicating that the site is properly closed, but requires continued management. The site as listed is approximately 22 acres in size. The area evaluated during site investigations is approximately 75 acres in size and is bounded by Townline Road to the west, an abandoned railroad right-of-way to the southeast and Bull Creek to the north. A lake approximately 15 acres in size (Quarry Lake, a former clay quarry) is located in the south-central portion of the site. The area around the site is residential/agricultural. The nearest residences are located less than 100 feet from the site. There is one drinking water well located more than 900 feet from the site.

The site was originally used as a clay brick and tile manufacturing facility. Frontier Chemical Waste Process, Inc. obtained the property and operated the site for the treatment of industrial wastes from 1959 to 1974. The waste treatment involved lime neutralization of plating wastes, pickle liquors and other liquid acid wastes from the plating and metal finishing industries. The treatment operations were carried out in the process area of the site, between Quarry Lake and the abandoned railroad. Resulting mixtures from the waste treatment process were discharged into Quarry Lake for settling of the neutralization products Other operations performed at the site included chemical oxidation, chemical product recovery, incineration and distillation. Various drummed and tanked wastes were stored on-site for transfer. Much of the process area was filled and graded following termination of the waste processing and treatment operations between 1974 and 1977. Over 50 barrels containing pyridine were excavated and removed from site during 1984-85 in a Superfund Removal Action.

In 1980, two retention ponds were constructed for the rehabilitation of Quarry Lake. This was accomplished by batch-treating lake water in the ponds with a 50% caustic solution and discharging (via direct pipeline) the resultant liquid to the Town of Wheatfield Sewage Treatment Plant. The use of the ponds ceased in the mid-1980s.

The lake was dewatered by pumping the water to the County sewage treatment plant. Under Consent Orders issued in 1984, 1986, and 1988, Frontier was required to remediate the Quarry Lake by excavating the contaminated sediment and placing it in a containment area which was to be built on-site. In addition, Frontier was required to investigate suspected disposal areas to the southeast of the lake. Frontier installed 12 additional monitoring wells in 1988 as a part of the investigation. Frontier did not implement and complete the work as required by the Consent Orders, and the facility was found to be in violation of the orders. Consequently, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation undertook the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, which was completed in 1991.

The Remedial Investigation determined that the bottom sediments of Quarry Lake were contaminated with heavy metals. The process/fill area south of the lake was also contaminated with both organics and heavy metals. The Record of Decision (ROD) was signed in March 1992. A Consent Order was signed with the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) in early 1994.

Detailed design of the selected remedy was finalized in early 1995 and remedial construction began in August 1995. The remedy included: the construction of a (subsurface) clay barrier wall on the south side of the lake, removal and consolidation of contaminated lake sediments in the former "process/fill area" (south of the lake), capping of the "process/fill area" with a low permeability membrane liner overlaid with soil/grass, surface water drainage improvements to handle lake water control/discharge, installation of a leachate collection system under the "process/fill area" with an underground leachate treatment system with discharge to the local POTW (via sanitary sewer connection and local discharge permit), and a long term operation, maintenance, and groundwater monitoring program to ensure the long term effectiveness of the remedy. The remedial construction was completed in late 1996. Long term remedial activities include operation and maintenance of the groundwater collection and pretreatment system, as well as maintenance of the cap over the "process/fill area". Long term remedial monitoring activities include pre-treatment system effluent sampling and reporting, as well as groundwater monitoring around the "process/fill area" and site perimeter.

The PRP group (which includes Olin, Allied Signal, IBM, Carborundum, DuPont, Dow Chemical, GM, etc.) agreed to implement the DEC's Record of Decision in a 1994 Consent Order. The primary point of contact for the PRP group and the required O&M is Olin.

2.	"contaminated"	above appropriate st	propriat tandards	ely prote s, guideli	ective ris	air media known or reasonably suspected to be sk-based "levels" (applicable promulgated standards, as dance, or criteria) from releases subject to RCRA
			Yes X	No	?	Rationale / Key Contaminants
	Groundwater		<u>X</u>			Chlorinated hydrocarbons and BTX compounds
	Surface Soil (e.s	2 <2 ft)		$\frac{\Lambda}{X}$	-	
	Air (indoors) ² Surface Soil (e.s Surface Water Sediment Subsurf. Soil (e.s	5.,,		$\frac{X}{X}$ $\frac{X}{X}$ $\frac{X}{X}$		Contamination in Process Area is Capped
	Sediment			X		
	Subsurf. Soil (e.	g., >2 ft)	<u>X</u>			Heavy metals, VOCs, PAHs
	Air (outdoors)			<u>X</u>		
	<u>X</u>	If yes (fo "contaminate determinate supporting support	e "levels or any mo inated" r ation that ng docur	edia) - comedium, at the mentation	entinue a citing a dium co	cing sufficient supporting documentation demonstrating ed. after identifying key contaminants in each ppropriate "levels" (or provide an explanation for the buld pose an unacceptable risk), and referencing to to #6 and enter "IN" status code.
Rationa	ile:					
Groundy excess o controls	of SCGs. However	nce soils w r these imp	rithin the pacts are	e former e very loo	waste proceeds	rocess/fill area contain VOCs, metals and PAHs in and are addressed by the cap and the groundwater
Contam	ination: The foll	owing are	results	of the RI	perform	ned in 1990/91:

¹ "Contamination" and "contaminated" describes media containing contaminants (in any form, NAPL and/or dissolved, vapors, or solids, that are subject to RCRA) in concentrations in excess of appropriately protective risk-based "levels" (for the media, that identify risks within the acceptable risk range).

² Recent evidence (from the Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment, and others) suggest that unacceptable indoor air concentrations are more common in structures above groundwater with volatile contaminants than previously believed. This is a rapidly developing field and reviewers are encouraged to look to the latest guidance for the appropriate methods and scale of demonstration necessary to be reasonably certain that indoor air (in structures located above (and adjacent to) groundwater with volatile contaminants) does not present unacceptable risks.

Groundwater: Three principal hydrologic units were defined at the site during the RI. These are an upper water-bearing zone, a clay confining unit (intermediate water bearing zone) and a lower aquifer. Groundwater in the upper water-bearing zone is perched and appears to flow in a radial pattern away from the process area. The horizontal flow is of low volume. Numerous organic contaminants were detected in the groundwater within the upper zone in the process area. The compounds of greatest significance, due to their frequency and concentration, were chlorinated hydrocarbons and BTX (benzene, toluene, xylene) compounds. The highest BTX compounds concentration found in this zone was toluene at 260 ppm. The highest chlorinated hydrocarbon was dichloroethane, at a concentration of 243.6 ppm. Concentrations of these organic compounds exceeded NYSDEC "Class GA" (drinking water) groundwater standards by orders of magnitude. The concentrations of many metals and cyanide from wells within the process area also exceeded groundwater standards. Wells screened in the upper zone and located outside the process area were free of organic compounds. These wells did contain low levels of inorganic compounds, such as iron and chromium, at concentrations in excess of water quality standards.

Within the clay confining unit, groundwater flow is generally vertical and downward. There is almost no horizontal component of groundwater flow in this unit due to the low hydraulic conductivity of the clay (on the order of 1 E-8 cm/sec). The maximum concentration of organics within this unit was tetrachloroethene at 14 ppb; however, the concentration exceeded groundwater standards. The most contaminated well within this unit, located within the process/fill area hot spot, had a total organics concentration of 288.9 ppb. In addition, concentrations of antimony, iron, magnesium and manganese exceeded groundwater standards. These organic and inorganic compounds were found in the groundwater within the process/fill area. The groundwater in wells outside this area did not exceed the groundwater quality standards. In the residential area around the site there are no wells in use at this depth. There is no potential for exposure to the low levels of contaminants in the water in the unit.

In the lower aquifer, organics were detected at levels generally much lower than that found within the upper water bearing zone. Flow within the lower aquifer is generally to the southwest. The concentration of acetone (a volatile organic) was the highest at 250 ppb. Concentrations of all other organics were less than 50 ppb; however some of these concentrations exceeded groundwater standards. Several metals were also detected within this unit; however, the concentrations did not exceed the background levels found.

All three units are contaminated; however, most of the contamination is within the upper water-bearing unit in the process area. The groundwater is apparently being contaminated by contact with chemicals in the process area and the lake sediments. Fortunately the upper water bearing zone transmits water only very slowly and contaminated groundwater has been confined to the area near the process area. Most of the local residents are served by a municipal water supply system. The closest well used for drinking water purposes is located more than 900 feet from the site. Water from the well was sampled and analyzed and found to be free of contaminants. A monitoring well was installed between the site and the general location of this drinking water well. No contaminants were detected in samples from the monitoring well.

Periodic routine groundwater samples collected (after completion of the remediation) from groundwater monitoring wells around the perimeter of the "process/fill area" cap and the perimeter of the site have not indicated groundwater contaminants in excess of New York State groundwater SCGs.

Indoor Air: There are no structures on the Frontier Chemical – Pendleton site, and no employees. Additionally, the groundwater contamination is very localized in the former process/fill area (which is capped), and is hydraulically controlled to prevent migration off site. As such, there is no possibility of off-site vapor intrusion.

Soil/Fill Contamination: The source of contamination at the site is the 7.4-acre process/fill area south of Quarry Lake. This area contains metal sludge spoils, construction and demolition (C&D) debris and black, dry or sludge-like material. In addition, at one time there were containers, tanks, railroad cars and pieces of equipment strewn throughout the area.

A number of organic and inorganic compounds were found in the soil in the process/fill area. Metals found at elevated levels (i.e., above 1 part per million (ppm)) included arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead and

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mercury. Chromium concentrations were highest in the area where lake sediments/metal sludge spills had been deposited in the process area. The organic compounds included volatile organics, polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), chlorinated hydrocarbons, PCBs and pesticides. The highest concentration of organics was 1,635 ppm of the BTX (benzene, toluene, xylene) group of compounds.

In general, soil contamination is limited to the process/fill area and has not spread appreciably to the surrounding soil.

Surface Water:

Quarry Lake Water: Quarry Lake is a water-filled, man-made excavation. The lake is underlain by a layer of low-permeability clay. In some areas the clay layer may be thin or nonexistent where excavations for the lake were the deepest. The volume of water in the lake is 37 million gallons. Groundwater from the process area flows into the lake at less than 20 gallons per day. The lake is classified as Class D waterway, which is able to sustain fish survival but is not appropriate for fish propagation.

Results of analysis performed on Quarry Lake water show that the lake water is relatively uncontaminated. A few organic contaminants were detected at low levels (1,2-dichloroethene and toluene at 4 ppb). These concentrations do not exceed the water quality standard of 5ppb for a Class D water body. The metal concentrations are also low, with only iron exceeding the water quality standard for a Class D water body. The lake water was removed and treated during the dewatering efforts for the sediment removal/treatment efforts as part of the remedial activities completed in the 1996.

Bull Creek: Water and sediment samples were taken from Bull Creek, a Class C stream (appropriate for fishing and fish propagation) along the northern border of the site. A total of seventeen organic compounds were found in the water samples; however, thirteen of these were detected only in the upstream sample. All compounds were found at levels of 26 ppb or less. The water quality standards for eight of these compounds, mostly PAHs, were exceeded in these samples. Eleven organic compounds, mostly PAHs, were detected in the stream sediment samples. Although these compounds were found on site, they may be attributable to an off-site source (i.e., Townline Road and/or the railroad ROW). A benthic survey, performed during the RI, indicated that the overall impact of the site on the water quality of Bull Creek is negligible.

Quarry Lake Sediments: The sediments in Quarry Lake were contaminated primarily with inorganic compounds but also contained some low levels of various organics. All contaminated lake sediments were removed/treated and consolidated in the former process/fill area prior to capping.

Subsurface soil: See above Soil/Fill Contamination. The former waste process/fill area was capped with a low permeable membrane liner and vegetated cover soil.

Air (Outdoor): Outdoor or ambient air is not considered to be an Area of Concern at this facility due to the clay soils and capped former waste/fill process area.

Reference(s): Record of Decision, Frontier Chemical -Pendleton Site No. 9-32-043. March 1992.

Frontier - Pendleton Report #13 - Annual Report - August 2005, Olin Corp.

RI Report - Draft Final & Appendices, January 1991, URS.

3. Are there **complete pathways** between "contamination" and human receptors such that exposures can be reasonably expected under the current (land- and groundwater-use) conditions?

Summary Exposure Pathway Evaluation Table

Potential Human Receptors (Under Current Conditions)

"Contaminated" Media	Residents	Workers	Day-Care	Construction	Trespassers	Recreation	Food ³
Groundwater	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	No	Yes	No	No	No
Air (indoors)						-	
Soil (surface, e.g., <2 ft)	No_	No	No	No	No	No	No
Surface Water							
Sediment							
Soil (subsurface e.g., >2 ft)				Yes		No	
Air (outdoors)							

Instructions for Summary Exposure Pathway Evaluation Table:

- 1. Strike-out specific Media including Human Receptors' spaces for Media which are not "contaminated") as identified in #2 above.
- 2. enter "yes" or "no" for potential "completeness" under each "Contaminated" Media -- Human Receptor combination (Pathway).

Note: In order to focus the evaluation to the most probable combinations some potential "Contaminated" Media - Human Receptor combinations (Pathways) do not have check spaces ("___"). While these combinations may not be probable in most situations they may be possible in some settings and should be added as necessary.

-	If no (pathways are not complete for any contaminated media-receptor combination) - skip to #6, and enter "YE" status code, after explaining and/or referencing condition(s) in-place, whether natural or man-made, preventing a complete exposure pathway from each contaminated medium (e.g., use optional <u>Pathway Evaluation Work Sheet</u> to analyze major pathways).
X	If yes (pathways are complete for any "Contaminated" Media - Human Receptor

If yes (pathways are complete for any "Contaminated" Media - Human Receptor combination) - continue after providing supporting explanation.

If unknown (for any "Contaminated" Media - Human Receptor combination) - skip to #6 and enter "IN" status code

Rationale:

Groundwater: Groundwater is contained on-site by a (subsurface) clay barrier wall on the south side of the lake, and a leachate collection system under the "process/fill area" with discharge to the Local Publically-owned Treatment Works (POTW) (via sanitary sewer connection and local discharge permit), and a long term operation, maintenance, and groundwater monitoring program to ensure the long term effectiveness of the remedy. The only plausible human receptors might be construction workers, in the event the remedy had to be altered in some fashion

³ Indirect Pathway/Receptor (e.g., vegetables, fruits, crops, meat and dairy products, fish, shellfish, etc.)

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or there was another reason to conduct construction on site. Such work would be covered by routine health and safety protocols.

Indoor Air: There are no structures existing on-site. Additionally as the groundwater plume is demonstrably contained within the perimeter of the facility, there is no possibility of off-site vapor intrusion exposure.

Surface Soil: Since the former waste/fill process area was capped in 1996, there is no surface soil contamination at the site.

Surface Water: Per the Remedial Investigation completed in 1991, and the remedial activities conducted in 1996, surface water on and nearby the site is not contaminated.

Sediment: Sediments in Quarry Lake were contaminated prior to the remedial measures but these have been dredged and are now contained on-site under the process area cap.

Subsurface soil: Site soils in the area of the former waste process/fill area are contaminated with VOCs, metals, and PAHs. This area was capped in 1996 as part of the site remedy. The only plausible human receptors might be construction workers, in the event the cap portion of the remedy had to be altered in some fashion. Such work would be covered by routine health and safety protocols.

Air (outdoors): Outdoor air is not considered an Area of Concern at this facility.

References:

Record of Decision, Frontier Chemical-Pendleton Site No. 9-32-043. March 1992.

Engineering Certification Report Vol I&II, March 1997, O'Brien & Gere.

Frontier – Pendleton Report #13 – Annual Report – August 2005, Olin Corp.

RI Report - Draft Final & Appendices, January 1991, URS.

4. Can the **exposures** from any of the complete pathways identified in #3 be reasonably expected to be "**significant**" (i.e., potentially "unacceptable" because exposures can be reasonably expected to be: 1) greater in magnitude (intensity, frequency and/or duration) than assumed in the derivation of the acceptable "levels" (used to identify the "contamination"); or 2) the combination of exposure magnitude (perhaps even though low) and contaminant concentrations (which may be substantially above the acceptable "levels") could result in greater than acceptable risks)?

<u>X</u>	If no (exposures can not be reasonably expected to be significant (i.e., potentially "unacceptable") for any complete exposure pathway) - skip to #6 and enter "YE" status code after explaining and/or referencing documentation justifying why the exposures (from each of the complete pathways) to "contamination" (identified in #3) are not expected to be "significant."					
	If yes (exposures could be reasonably expected to be "significant" (i.e., potentially "unacceptable") for any complete exposure pathway) - continue after providing a description (of each potentially "unacceptable" exposure pathway) and explaining and/or					

⁴ If there is any question on whether the identified exposures are "significant" (i.e., potentially "unacceptable") consult a human health Risk Assessment specialist with appropriate education, training and experience.

			referencing documentation justifying why the exposures (from each of the remaining complete pathways) to "contamination" (identified in #3) are not expected to be "significant."
	_		If unknown (for any complete pathway) - skip to #6 and enter "IN" status code
Rationa	ıle:		
Constru	ction work ve health a	ers perf nd safet	forming work in this area would be required to be operating under an appropriately y program. This is expected to remove inappropriate risk from these receptors.
5.	Can the "	significa	ant" exposures (identified in #4) be shown to be within acceptable limits? N/A
	-	+	If yes (all "significant" exposures have been shown to be within acceptable limits) - continue and enter "YE" after summarizing <u>and</u> referencing documentation justifying why all "significant" exposures to "contamination" are within acceptable limits (e.g., a site-specific Human Health Risk Assessment).
			If no (there are current exposures that can be reasonably expected to be "unacceptable")-continue and enter "NO" status code after providing a description of each potentially "unacceptable" exposure.
			If unknown (for any potentially "unacceptable" exposure) - continue and enter "IN" status code.
Rationa	ale and Re	ference	<u>(s):</u>
6.	code (CA	725), ai	oriate RCRAInfo status codes for the Current Human Exposures Under Control EI event and obtain Supervisor (or appropriate Manager) signature and date on the EI determination appropriate supporting documentation as well as a map of the facility):
	-	X	YE - Yes, "Current Human Exposures Under Control" has been verified. Based on a review of the information contained in this EI Determination, "Current Human Exposures" are expected to be "Under Control" at the Frontier Chemical, Pendleton facility, EPA ID # NYD991292053, located in Pendleton, New York under current and reasonably expected conditions. This determination represents the best understanding of conditions at the afore-mentioned facility by the State, given the most current data. This determination will be re-evaluated when the State becomes aware of significant changes at the facility.
	· -		NO - "Current Human Exposures" are NOT "Under Control."
			IN - More information is needed to make a determination.

Completed by:

Jeffrey Konsella, Project Manager

Date: 6/6/06

Environmental Engineer II NYSDEC Region 9 Office

Supervisor:

Gree Sutton

Date: 6/7/06

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Director:

Edwin Dassatti, P.E.

___ Date: 0/ (/ a

Bureau of Hazardous Waste & Radiation Management

Division of Solid & Hazardous Materials

Locations where References may be found:

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FINAL NOTE: THE HUMAN EXPOSURES EI IS A QUALITATIVE SCREENING OF EXPOSURES AND THE DETERMINATIONS WITHIN THIS DOCUMENT SHOULD NOT BE USED AS THE SOLE BASIS FOR RESTRICTING THE SCOPE OF MORE DETAILED (E.G., SITE-SPECIFIC) ASSESSMENTS OF RISK.

